Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed October 17, 2007.

I. Summary of Examiner's Rejections

Prior to the Office Action mailed October 17, 2007, Claims 1-2, 4-8, 25-30, and 32-37 were pending in the Application. In the Office Action, Claims 1-2, 4-8, 25-30, and 32-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Huben et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,327,594, hereafter Van Huben) in view of Sim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,857,012, hereafter Sim).

II. Summary of Applicants' Amendments

The present Response amends Claims 1 and 25, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration Claims 1-2, 4-8, 25-30, and 32-37. Reconsideration of the Application as amended is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action mailed March 9, 2007, Claims 1-2, 4-8, 25-30, and 32-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Huben et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,327,594, hereafter Van Huben) in view of Sim et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,857,012, hereafter Sim).

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended by the present Response to more clearly define the embodiment of the invention therein. As amended, Claim 1 defines:

> *1. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing data for access by an*
> *application program being executed on a computer system, comprising:*
> *a data structure stored in said storage medium, the data structure including or*
> *referring to:*
> > *a name;*
> > *a content repository identifier;*
> > *a property;*
> > *a property definition;*
> > *a path; and*

a reference to a parent data structure;

wherein the data structure is logically part of a virtual content repository (VCR);

wherein the VCR represents, using an application program interface (API), a plurality of content repositories logically as a single content repository encompassing the plurality of content repositories from the application program's standpoint;

wherein the plurality of content repositories plug into the VCR via a service provider interface (SPI);

wherein the API and the SPI share a content model that represents content of the plurality of content repositories as a hierarchical namespace of nodes;

wherein the path uniquely specifies the data structure's location in the VCR; and

wherein a content repository is a searchable data store.

Claim 1, as amended, defines a storage medium for storing data for access by an application program being execute on a computer system, comprising a data structure, wherein the data structure is logically part of a VCR, wherein the VCR represents, using an API, a plurality of content repositories logically as a single content repository encompassing the plurality of content repositories from the application program's standpoint, wherein the plurality of content repositories plug into the VCR via a SPI, and wherein the API and the SPI share a content model that represents content of the plurality of content repositories as a hierarchical namespace of nodes. Applicants respectfully submit that these features are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art.

In view of the above comments, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, as amended, is neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim 25

Claim 25 has been similarly amended to more clearly define the embodiment therein. For similar reasons as provided above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 25, as amended, is also neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 4-8, 26-30, and 32-37

Dependent Claims 2, 4-8, 26-30, and 32-37 are not addressed separately, but it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable as depending from an allowable independent claim and further in view of the additional limitations of these claims. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2, 4-8, 26-30, and 32-37 are similarly neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. It is also respectfully submitted that these claims also add their own limitations which render them patentable in their own right. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to argue these limitations should it become necessary in the future.

IV.   <u>Conclusion</u>

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this reply, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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